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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,777	08/26/2003	Pierre Rondeau	RP-00128-US65	2002
28735	7590	10/20/2004	EXAMINER	
BOMBARDIER RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS INC			FLEMING, FAYE M	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PO BOX 230				3616
NORTON, VT 05907-0230				

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/647,777 Examiner Faye M Fleming	Applicant(s) RONDEAU ET AL. <i>SO</i>	
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on July 26, 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/26/04</u> . | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haynes (6,105,721) in view of Katsuoka (4,527,831).

Haynes teaches an ATV comprising a frame; at least three wheels suspended from the frame, at least one of which is a front wheel and at least one of which is a rear wheel; a power unit for driving at least one of the wheels disposed on the frame; a straddle-type seat disposed on the frame, the seat including a main seat portion; a steering member for steering at least one of the wheels and at least one passenger grab handle 46. The at least three wheels comprise only four wheels, two of which are front wheels and two of which are rear wheels; each of the wheels includes a tire; and the steering member comprises handlebars. As shown in figure 3, Haynes teaches a right and a left passenger grab handle. Haynes teaches a secondary supporting range

37. The grab handles are mounted to the ATV separately from the secondary seat portion. The grab handle is longitudinal aligned with the secondary seat portion and is disposed laterally outwardly from the secondary seat portion. The grab handles each

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comprise a ring-shaped portion, extending generally horizontally. The grab handles are flexible. The grab handle comprises a resilient material.

Haynes teaches the claimed invention except for a secondary seat portion rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion. Katsuoka teaches a motorcycle comprising a straddle-type seat including a main seat portion 20 and a secondary seat portion 24 rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion. Based on the teachings of Katsuoka, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the ATV of Haynes to include a secondary seat rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion to provide an improved seating arrangement. With respect to the wheelbase, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have the wheelbase a specific size, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. With respect to the passenger grab handle, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have the passenger grab handle extend above the secondary seat portion a specific distance, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

3. Claims 1 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi (4,860,850) in view of Katsuoka (4,527,831).

Takahashi teaches an ATV comprising a frame; at least three wheels suspended from the frame, at least one of which is a front wheel and at least one of which is a

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rear wheel; a power unit for driving at least one of the wheels disposed on the frame; a straddle-type seat disposed on the frame, the seat including a main seat portion; a steering member for steering at least one of the wheels and at least one passenger grab handle via (C). Takahashi teaches a rear rack (C), wherein the grab handle is attached.

Takahashi teaches the claimed invention except for a secondary seat portion rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion. Katsuoka teaches a motorcycle comprising a straddle-type seat including a main seat portion 20 and a secondary seat portion 24 rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion. Based on the teachings of Katsuoka, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the ATV of Takahashi to include a secondary seat rearward of and adjacent to the main seat portion to provide an improved seating arrangement.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

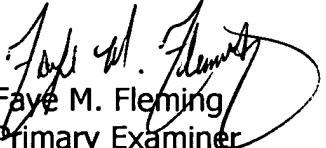
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye M. Fleming whose telephone number is (703) 305-0209. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (703) 308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Faye M. Fleming
Primary Examiner
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10/17/09